

II. Settlement and Demarcation.

G. Demarcation.

150. The work of demarcation is of primary importance—not more in the interest of the Forest Department than to protect the cultivators from the oppression and hardship they must necessarily be subjected to if the restrictions essential to forest conservancy are not limited to well-defined areas.*

151. Demarcation includes lands not yet acquired for forests but which are to be acquired as opportunity offers, and the demarcated area is understood to include all the land which it is desirable to include in forest. The demarcation once made should be final and no other policy is expedient. Even where the demarcation settlement has not been made, orders on applications to take up waste lands for cultivation should be passed without delay and not indefinitely postponed.†

152. The Governor in Council has frequently desired that the opinion of the Forest Officers should be obtained in passing demarcation proposals. The Demarcation Officer should consult every local official concerned in forests or agriculture, and any differences of opinion should be placed before the Commissioner and Conservator, that, if possible, unanimity may be attained before proposals are submitted to Government. The excessive bulk and complexity of Forest Settlement Reports might thus be greatly reduced. A Divisional Forest Officer should always have an opportunity of offering his observations concerning proposals made by a Forest Settlement Officer, and his remarks should be forwarded to Government with the other reports.‡

153. Any forest demarcation proposals prepared by the Conservator of Forests should be forwarded through the Collector and Commissioner, who will after such examination of them as they may deem necessary, submit them to Government with their remarks.§

154. No forest settlement proposals can be satisfactorily and finally disposed of, until Government is fully satisfied as to whether the demarcation leaves sufficient land for such extension of agriculture as may be anticipated, and this information must not be omitted from any report.||

* Government Resolution No. 3756, dated 6th August 1870.

† Government Resolution No. 1056, dated 8th February 1883.

‡ Government Resolutions No. 8018, dated 10th October 1884; and No. 1306, dated 12th February 1885.

§ Government Resolution No. 5646, dated 5th August 1889.

|| Government Resolution No. 909, dated 4th February 1886.

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G. DEMARCATION—concluded.

155. Surveys for the purpose of demarcating forests merely need not necessarily be made under the provisions of Chapters VIII to X of the Revenue Code. Section 8 of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, empowers a Forest Settlement Officer to enter by himself, or any officer authorized by him for the purpose, upon any land and to survey, demarcate and make a map of the same, and this appears to be quite sufficient for all the purposes of the Forest Act. Such survey and demarcation can, however, only take place after a notification declaring that it is proposed to constitute a reserved forest has been issued under section 4 of the Forest Act. In such notification it is "sufficient to describe the limits of the forest by roads, rivers, ridges or other well-known or readily intelligible boundaries" (*vide* explanation 1 to section 4). In the notification finally declaring a forest reserved, to be issued under section 19, the limits must be specified "definitely, according to boundary-marks erected or otherwise."*

156. To throw up river bank forest to attain symmetry of boundary or to provide a small additional area of land for cultivation is in the opinion of Government a mistaken policy. The splitting up of survey numbers should be most carefully avoided, except in cases where owing to the very large size of the number or any other very special cause such a course is found to be absolutely necessary. Resort should certainly not be had to it merely to secure straight and even boundary lines.†

H. Settlement and Demarcation Report.

157. The papers of a forest settlement when placed before Government should comprise :—

Data required in the Settlement Report.

- (1) a list of already notified reserves as they are to be retained permanently ;
- (2) a list of notified reserved lands which it is proposed to exclude from reserves, with reasons in detail, and the views of the District Forest Officer ;
- (3) a list of new lands which it is proposed to constitute reserved forest (to be notified under section 4), with reasons ;
- (4) a list of lands, if any, which it is proposed to make protected forest under section 28 ; perhaps also
- (5) a list of occupied lands which it is desirable to acquire for forests ; and
- (6) a record of rights awarded in reserves.

* L. R. No. 358, dated 17th March 1883, *vide* Government Resolution No. 2813, dated 9th April 1883.

† Government Resolution No. 641, dated 24th January 1889.